

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5036

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 6337

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TECH, GT

SUBJECT: WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE & THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

REF: GUATEMALA 6246 AND GUATEMALA 6086

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED VIEWS OF ACQUIRRE AND NORIEGA OF ICAITI TODAY. SUMMARY FOLLOWS AND INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF ENTIRE MEMO WILL BE POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.

2. SUMMARY: A) US PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED IN POLLACK/BOWDLER TALKING POINTS, WHILE WELL INTENTIONED, IS TOO LIMITED IN SCOPE, LACKS FIRM DELINEATION OF FUNCTIONS AND IS NOT SPECIFIC ENOUGH REGARDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT. THE 3 TIER STRUCTURE OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE, TECHNICAL COMMISSION AND AD HOC GROUPS RUNS THE RISK OF DUPLICATING WORK ALREADY BEING PERFORMED WITHIN OAS STRUCTURE BY CEPICIECC AND CICYT. ICAITI FEELS THAT WHAT IS NECESSARY, IN KEEPING WITH THRUST OF MFM INITIATIVE, IS SOMETHING WHICH GOES BEYOND THE FRAMEWORK OF "COMMITTEES" AND COMMISSIONS". ORGANIZATIONS OF THIS TYPE HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BEFORE IN LATIN AMERICA AND HAVE HAD ONLY MARGINAL IMPACT. "COMMITTEES" AND "COMMISSIONS" HAVE THUS ACQUIRED A POOR REPUTATION IN THE AREA AND REVERTING TO THEM WOULD BE A STEP

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BACKWARDS.

B) ICAITI THEREFORE STANDS BEHIND ITS PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED TO THE SUB-GROUP II MEETING HERE IN GUATEMALA. WHILE PROPOSAL STILL NEEDS FURTHER STUDY AND REFINING IT DOES MEET NEEDS OF MFM INITIATIVE FOR WIDER RANGING, WELL FUNDED, UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTED PROGRAM CHARGED WITH SPECIFIC TASK OF PLACING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AT THE SERVICE OF DEVELOPMENT.

3. COMMENT: GOG HAS YET TO REPLY TO POLLACK VISIT DESPITE SEVERAL EMBASSY QUERIES. HOWEVER, THERE IS LITTLE REASON TO BELIEVE ITS RESPONSE WILL BE ANY DIFFERENT FROM ICAITI'S. AS POLLACK VISIT MADE CLEAR AQUIRRE AND NORIEGA ARE THE KEY GUATEMALAN FIGURES AND THEIR THOUGHTS DOMINATE BOTH GOG AND ICAITI THINKING ON SCIENCE AND THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. DECONTROL AFTER 11/20/76.
MELOY

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